BEFORE THE BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the First Amended Statement of Issues Against:

ANAHIT HOVHANNISYAN

Applicant for Registered Nurse License

Respondent

Case No. 2012 -152

OAH No. L-2011100899

DECISION AND ORDER

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted by the Board of Registered Nursing, Department of Consumer Affairs, as its Decision in the above entitled matter.

This Decision shall become effective on **November 2, 2012**.

IT IS SO ORDERED October 5, 2012.

Raymond Mallel, President

Board of Registered Nursing

Department of Consumer Affairs

State of California

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|----|--|--|--|
| 1 | KAMALA D. HARRIS Attorney General of California | | |
| 2 | KAREN B. CHAPPELLE | | |
| 3 | Supervising Deputy Attorney General NANCY A. KAISER | | |
| 4 | Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 192083 | | |
| 5 | 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013 | • | |
| 6 | Telephone: (213) 897-5794 Facsimile: (213) 897-2804 | | |
| 7 | Attorneys for Complainant | | |
| ,8 | BEFORE THE BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS | | |
| 9 | | | |
| 10 | STATE OF C | CALIFORNIA | |
| 11 | In the Matter of the First Amended Statement | Case No. 2012-152 | |
| 12 | of Issues Against: | OAH No. L-2011100899 | |
| 13 | ANAHIT HOVHANNISYAN | STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER | |
| 14 | Applicant for Registered Nurse License | DISCHEIN MART SABER | |
| 15 | Respondent. | | |
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| 17 | In the interest of a prompt and speedy settlement of this matter, consistent with the public | | |
| 18 | interest and the responsibility of the Board of Registered Nursing the parties hereby agree to the | | |
| 19 | following Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, which will be submitted to the Board for | | |
| 20 | approval and adoption as the final disposition of the First Amended Statement of Issues. | | |
| 21 | <u>PARTIES</u> | | |
| 22 | 1. Louise R. Bailey, M.Ed., RN (Complainant) is the Interim Executive Officer of the | | |
| 23 | Board of Registered Nursing. She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is | | |
| 24 | represented in this matter by Kamala D. Harris, Attorney General of the State of California, by | | |
| 25 | Nancy A. Kaiser, Deputy Attorney General. | | |
| 26 | 2. Respondent Anahit Hovhannisyan (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by | | |
| 27 | attorney Donald B. Brown, whose address is: Law Offices of Brown & Brown, Torrance | | |
| 28 | Executive Plaza, 3848 Carson Street, Suite 206, Torrance, CA 90503. | | |
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3. On or about July 9, 2007, Respondent filed an application with the Board of Registered Nursing to obtain a Registered Nurse License.

JURISDICTION

- 4. First Amended Statement of Issues No. 2012-152 was filed before the Board of Registered Nursing and is currently pending against Respondent. The Statement of Issues and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on February 13, 2012. The First Amended Statement of Issues was served on May 23, 2012.
- 5. A copy of First Amended Statement of Issues No. 2012-152 is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 6. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in First Amended Statement of Issues No. 2012-152. Respondent has also carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
- 7. Respondent is fully aware of her legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the First Amended Statement of Issues; the right to be represented by counsel at her own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against her; the right to present evidence and to testify on her own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 8. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

CULPABILITY

9. Respondent admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in First Amended Statement of Issues No. 2012-152.

10. Respondent agrees that her Application for Registered Nurse License is subject to denial and she agrees to be bound by the Board probationary terms as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

CONTINGENCY

- 11. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Board. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Board may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that she may not withdraw her agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.
- 12. The parties understand and agree that facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 13. This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is intended by the parties to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final, and exclusive embodiment of their agreement. It supersedes any and all prior or contemporaneous agreements, understandings, discussions, negotiations, and commitments (written or oral). This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order may not be altered, amended, modified, supplemented, or otherwise changed except by a writing executed by an authorized representative of each of the parties.
- 14. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

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DISCIPLINARY ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the application of Respondent Anahit Hovhannisyan for licensure is granted. Upon successful completion of the licensure examination and all other licensing requirements, a license shall be issued to Respondent. Said license shall immediately be revoked, the order of revocation stayed and Respondent placed on probation for a period of three (3) years on the following conditions:

SEVERABILITY CLAUSE – Each condition of probation contained herein is a separate and distinct condition. If any condition of this Order, or any application thereof, is declared unenforceable in whole, in part, or to any extent, the remainder of this Order, and all other applications thereof, shall not be affected. Each condition of this Order shall separately be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.

1. **OBEY ALL LAWS** - Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws. A full and detailed account of any and all violations of law shall be reported by the Respondent to the Board in writing within seventy-two (72) hours of occurrence. To permit monitoring of compliance with this condition, Respondent shall submit completed fingerprint forms and fingerprint fees within 45 days of the effective date of the decision, unless previously submitted as part of the licensure application process.

CRIMINAL COURT ORDERS: If Respondent is under criminal court orders, including probation or parole, and the order is violated, this shall be deemed a violation of these probation conditions, and may result in the filing of an accusation and/or petition to revoke probation.

2. **COMPLY WITH THE BOARD'S PROBATION PROGRAM** - Respondent shall fully comply with the conditions of the Probation Program established by the Board and cooperate with representatives of the Board in its monitoring and investigation of the Respondent's compliance with the Board's Probation Program. Respondent shall inform the Board in writing within no more than 15 days of any address change and shall at all times maintain an active, current license status with the Board, including during any period of suspension.

Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's license shall be fully restored.

- 3. **REPORT IN PERSON** Respondent, during the period of probation, shall appear in person at interviews/meetings as directed by the Board or its designated representatives.
- 4. **RESIDENCY, PRACTICE, OR LICENSURE OUTSIDE OF STATE** Periods of residency or practice as a registered nurse outside of California shall not apply toward a reduction of this probation time period. Respondent's probation is tolled, if and when she resides outside of California. The Respondent must provide written notice to the Board within 15 days of any change of residency or practice outside the state and within 30 days prior to re-establishing residency or returning to practice in this state.

Respondent shall provide a list of all states and territories where she has ever been licensed as a registered nurse, vocational nurse, or practical nurse. Respondent shall further provide information regarding the status of each license and any changes in such license status during the term of probation. Respondent shall inform the Board if she applies for or obtains a new nursing license during the term of probation.

5. **SUBMIT WRITTEN REPORTS** - Respondent, during the period of probation, shall submit or cause to be submitted such written reports/declarations and verification of actions under penalty of perjury, as required by the Board. These reports/declarations shall contain statements relative to Respondent's compliance with all the conditions of the Board's Probation Program. Respondent shall immediately execute all release of information forms as may be required by the Board or its representatives.

Respondent shall provide a copy of this decision to the nursing regulatory agency in every state and territory in which she has a registered nurse license.

6. **FUNCTION AS A REGISTERED NURSE** - Respondent, during the period of probation, shall engage in the practice of registered nursing in California for a minimum of 24 hours per week for 6 consecutive months or as determined by the Board.

For purposes of compliance with the section, "engage in the practice of registered nursing" may include, when approved by the Board, volunteer work as a registered nurse, or work in any nondirect patient care position that requires licensure as a registered nurse.

The Board may require that advanced practice nurses engage in advanced practice nursing for a minimum of 24 hours per week for 6 consecutive months or as determined by the Board.

If Respondent has not complied with this condition during the probationary term, and the Respondent has presented sufficient documentation of her good faith efforts to comply with this condition, and if no other conditions have been violated, the Board, in its discretion, may grant an extension of the Respondent's probation period up to one year without further hearing in order to comply with this condition. During the one year extension, all original conditions of probation shall apply.

7. **EMPLOYMENT APPROVAL AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS -**Respondent shall obtain prior approval from the Board before commencing or continuing any employment, paid or voluntary, as a registered nurse. Respondent shall cause to be submitted to the Board all performance evaluations and other employment related reports as a registered nurse upon request of the Board.

Respondent shall provide a copy of this decision to her employer and immediate supervisors prior to commencement of any nursing or other health care related employment.

In addition to the above, Respondent shall notify the Board in writing within seventy-two (72) hours after she obtains any nursing or other health care related employment. Respondent shall notify the Board in writing within seventy-two (72) hours after she is terminated or separated, regardless of cause, from any nursing, or other health care related employment with a full explanation of the circumstances surrounding the termination or separation.

8. **SUPERVISION** - Respondent shall obtain prior approval from the Board regarding Respondent's level of supervision and/or collaboration before commencing or continuing any employment as a registered nurse, or education and training that includes patient care.

Respondent shall practice only under the direct supervision of a registered nurse in good standing (no current discipline) with the Board of Registered Nursing, unless alternative methods of supervision and/or collaboration (e.g., with an advanced practice nurse or physician) are approved.

Respondent's level of supervision and/or collaboration may include, but is not limited to the following:

- (a) Maximum The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration is present in the patient care area or in any other work setting at all times.
- (b) Moderate The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration is in the patient care unit or in any other work setting at least half the hours Respondent works.
- (c) Minimum The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration has person-to-person communication with Respondent at least twice during each shift worked.
- (d) Home Health Care If Respondent is approved to work in the home health care setting, the individual providing supervision and/or collaboration shall have person-to-person communication with Respondent as required by the Board each work day. Respondent shall maintain telephone or other telecommunication contact with the individual providing supervision and/or collaboration as required by the Board during each work day. The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration shall conduct, as required by the Board, periodic, on-site visits to patients' homes visited by the Respondent with or without Respondent present.
- 9. **EMPLOYMENT LIMITATIONS** Respondent shall not work for a nurse's registry, in any private duty position as a registered nurse, a temporary nurse placement agency, a traveling nurse, or for an in-house nursing pool.

Respondent shall not work for a licensed home health agency as a visiting nurse unless the registered nursing supervision and other protections for home visits have been approved by the Board. Respondent shall not work in any other registered nursing occupation where home visits are required. Respondent shall not work in any health care setting as a supervisor of registered nurses. The Board may additionally restrict Respondent from supervising licensed vocational nurses and/or unlicensed assistive personnel on a case-by-case basis.

Respondent shall not work as a faculty member in an approved school of nursing or as an instructor in a Board approved continuing education program.

Respondent shall work only on a regularly assigned, identified and predetermined worksite(s) and shall not work in a float capacity.

If the Respondent is working or intends to work in excess of 40 hours per week, the Board may request documentation to determine whether there should be restrictions on the hours of work.

10. **COMPLETE A NURSING COURSE(S)** - Respondent, at her own expense, shall enroll and successfully complete a course(s) relevant to the practice of registered nursing no later than six months prior to the end of her probationary term.

Respondent shall obtain prior approval from the Board before enrolling in the course(s). Respondent shall submit to the Board the original transcripts or certificates of completion for the above required course(s). The Board shall return the original documents to Respondent after photocopying them for its records.

11. **VIOLATION OF PROBATION** - If a Respondent violates the conditions of her probation, the Board after giving the Respondent notice and an opportunity to be heard, may set aside the stay order and impose the stayed discipline (revocation/suspension) of the Respondent's license.

If during the period of probation, an accusation or petition to revoke probation has been filed against Respondent's license or the Attorney General's Office has been requested to prepare an accusation or petition to revoke probation against the Respondent's license, the probationary period shall automatically be extended and shall not expire until the accusation or petition has been acted upon by the Board.

12. **LICENSE SURRENDER -** During Respondent's term of probation, if she ceases practicing due to retirement, health reasons or is otherwise unable to satisfy the conditions of probation, Respondent may surrender her license to the Board. The Board reserves the right to evaluate Respondent's request and to exercise its discretion whether to grant the request, or to take any other action deemed appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances, without further

hearing. Upon formal acceptance of the tendered license and wall certificate, Respondent will no longer be subject to the conditions of probation.

Surrender of Respondent's license shall be considered a disciplinary action and shall become a part of Respondent's license history with the Board. A registered nurse whose license has been surrendered may petition the Board for reinstatement no sooner than the following minimum periods from the effective date of the disciplinary decision:

- (1) Two years for reinstatement of a license that was surrendered for any reason other than a mental or physical illness; or
 - (2) One year for a license surrendered for a mental or physical illness.
- 13. **MENTAL HEALTH EXAMINATION** The Respondent shall, within 45 days of the effective date of this decision, have a mental health examination including psychological testing as appropriate to determine her capability to perform the duties of a registered nurse. The examination will be performed by a psychiatrist, psychologist or other licensed mental health practitioner approved by the Board. The examining mental health practitioner will submit a written report of that assessment and recommendations to the Board. All costs are the responsibility of the Respondent. Recommendations for treatment, therapy or counseling made as a result of the mental health examination will be instituted and followed by the Respondent.

If Respondent is determined to be unable to practice safely as a registered nurse, the licensed mental health care practitioner making this determination shall immediately notify the Board and Respondent by telephone, and the Board shall request that the Attorney General's office prepare an accusation or petition to revoke probation. Respondent shall immediately cease practice and may not resume practice until notified by the Board. During this period of suspension, Respondent shall not engage in any practice for which a license issued by the Board is required, until the Board has notified Respondent that a mental health determination permits Respondent to resume practice. This period of suspension will not apply to the reduction of this probationary time period.

If the Respondent fails to have the above assessment submitted to the Board within the 45-day requirement, Respondent shall immediately cease practice and shall not resume

STIPULATED SETTLEMENT (2012-152)

ENDORSEMENT

The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Board of Registered Nursing.

Respectfully submitted,

KAMALA D. HARRIS Attorney General of California KAREN B. CHAPPELLE Supervising Deputy Attorney General

NANCY A. KAISER

Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant

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Exhibit A

First Amended Statement of Issues No. 2012-152

| 1 | KAMALA D. HARRIS | | |
|-----|--|----------------------------|--|
| 2 | Attorney General of California KAREN B. CHAPPELLE | | |
| . 3 | Supervising Deputy Attorney General NANCY A. KAISER | | |
| 3 | Deputy Attorney General | | |
| 4 | State Bar No. 192083 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702 | | |
| 5 | Los Angeles, CA 90013 | | |
| 6 | Telephone: (213) 897-5794 Facsimile: (213) 897-2804 | | |
| 7 | Attorneys for Complainant | | |
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| 9 | REFO | RE THE | |
| - | BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING | | |
| 10 | DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA | | |
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| 13 | In the Matter of the First Amended Statement | Case No. 2012-152 | |
| 14 | of Issues Against: | OAH No. L-2011100899 | |
| 15 | ANAHIT HOVHANNISYAN | FIRST AMENDED STATEMENT OF | |
| , . | Applicant for Registered Nurse License | ISSUES | |
| 16 | Respondent. | | |
| 17 | Teopondent. | | |
| 18 | | | |
| 19 | Complainant alleges: | | |
| 20 | PAR | TIES | |
| 21 | 1. Louise R. Bailey, M.Ed., RN (Complainant) brings this First Amended Statement of | | |
| 22 | Issues solely in her official capacity as the Interim Executive Officer of the Board of Registered | | |
| 23 | Nursing, Department of Consumer Affairs. | | |
| 24 | 2. On or about July 11, 2007, the Board of Registered Nursing (Board) received an | | |
| 25 | application for Licensure by Examination as a Registered Nurse from Anahit Hovhannisyan | | |
| 26 | (Respondent). On or about July 9, 2007 ¹ , Respondent certified under penalty of perjury to the | | |
| 27 | Respondent's application was placed on a three-year hold for education deficiencies. The hold | | |
| 28 | gave the applicant three years to take classes. | | |
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27 28 truthfulness of all statements, answers, and representations in the application. The Board denied the application on January 10, 2011.

JURISDICTION

3. This First Amended Statement of Issues is brought before the Board under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

- Section 480 states, in part:
- "(a) A board may deny a license regulated by this code on the grounds that the applicant has one of the following:
- "(1) Been convicted of a crime. A conviction within the meaning of this section means a plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere. Any action that a board is permitted to take following the establishment of a conviction may be taken when the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal, or when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under the provisions of Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code.
- "(2) Done any act involving dishonesty, fraud, or deceit with the intent to substantially benefit himself or herself or another, or substantially injure another.
- "(3) (A) Done any act that if done by a licentiate of the business or profession in question, would be grounds for suspension or revocation of license.
- (B) The board may deny a license pursuant to this subdivision only if the crime or act is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of the business or profession for which application is made."
 - 5. Section 490 states, in part:
- "(a) In addition to any other action that a board is permitted to take against a licensee, a board may suspend or revoke a license on the ground that the licensee has been convicted of a crime, if the crime is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of the business or profession for which the license was issued.

- "(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a board may exercise any authority to discipline a licensee for conviction of a crime that is independent of the authority granted under subdivision (a) only if the crime is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of the business or profession for which the licensee's license was issued.
- "(c) A conviction within the meaning of this section means a plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere. Any action that a board is permitted to take following the establishment of a conviction may be taken when the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal, or when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under the provisions of Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code."
- 6. Section 2736 provides, in part, that the Board may deny a license when it finds that the applicant has committed any acts constituting grounds for denial of licensure under section 480 of that Code.
 - 7. Section 2761 states, in part:

"The board may take disciplinary action against a certified or licensed nurse or deny an application for a certificate or license for any of the following:

"(a) Unprofessional conduct."

"(f) Conviction of a felony or of any offense substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a registered nurse, in which event the record of the conviction shall be conclusive evidence thereof."

REGULATORY PROVISIONS

8. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1444 states, in part:

"A conviction or act shall be considered to be substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a registered nurse if to a substantial degree it evidences the present or potential unfitness of a registered nurse to practice in a manner consistent with the public health, safety, or welfare. Such convictions or acts shall include but not be limited to the following:

(c) Theft, dishonesty, fraud, or deceit."

FIRST CAUSE FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION

(Conviction-of-Substantially-Related-Crime)-

- 9. Respondent's application is subject to denial under sections 2761(f) and 480, subdivision (a)(1), in that Respondent was convicted of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a registered nurse, as follows.
- a. On or about November 29, 2011, Respondent was convicted of one misdemeanor count of violating Penal Code section 484, subdivision (a) (petty theft), in the criminal proceeding entitled *The People of the State of California v. Anahit Hovhannisyan* (Super. Ct. Los Angeles County, 2011). The circumstances surrounding the conviction are as follows:
- b. On or about September 14, 2011, an on-duty Loss Prevention Officer at Loehmann's store in Reseda, California, observed Respondent place a ring and three sets of earrings into her hand bag then walk up to the registers. Respondent spoke with a customer who asked her to make change for him. After doing so, she stepped out of the cashier's line and around the registers exiting the store. Once outside approximately four (4) feet from the entrance door she was apprehended by the loss prevention officer and a security guard then brought back to the office. In the office, the loss prevention officer discovered the ring, three earrings, and additional unpaid merchandise concealed in the Respondent's handbag. When questioned about the merchandise she took she stated, "I did something wrong, I took something."
- c. On or about November 29, 2011, Respondent was sentenced as follows: twenty-four (24) months of probation, one (1) day county jail, restitution, and work program.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION .

(Acts Involving Dishonesty, Fraud, or Deceit)

- 10. Respondent's application is subject to denial under section 480, subdivision (a)(2), in that Respondent committed dishonest acts, fraud or deceit with the intent to substantially benefit herself, or substantially injure another, as follows:
- a. On or about August 8, 2010, Respondent entered Marshalls, in Burbank, California, selected several items of clothing, concealed them in her purse, and walked out without paying

for merchandise. These actions were observed by Marshall's loss prevention agents. Respondent was subsequently arrested by officers of the Burbank Police Department for violating Penal Code section 484, subdivision (a) [petty-theft]. During the booking-procedure, the officer found additional stolen merchandise under her clothing.

b. On or about September 14, 2011, Respondent shoplifted several items of jewelry from a Loehmann's store in Reseda, California. Complainant refers to, and by this reference incorporates the allegations set forth above in paragraph 9(b), as though fully set forth.

THIRD CAUSE FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION

(Acts Warranting Suspension or Revocation of License)

11. Respondent's application is subject to denial under sections 480, subdivision (a)(3), 2761, subdivisions (a) and (f), and 490, in conjunction with California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1444, subdivision (c), in that Respondent committed acts which if done by a licentiate for the business and profession in question, would be grounds for suspension or revocation of a license. Complainant refers to, and by this reference incorporates the allegations set forth above in paragraphs 9 and 10, as though fully set forth.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board issue a decision:

- 1. Denying the application for Licensure by Exam as a Registered Nurse License; and
- 2. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: May 23, 2012

LOUISE R. BAILEY. M.ED., RN

Interim Executive Officer

Board of Registered Nursing Department of Consumer Affairs

State of California

Complainant

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